(iv) All the printing and casting machines mentioned in the list appended are reported to be in working order.

Poramboke Cases and Original Land Records.

66. MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI: With reference to the answer given to Question No. 34, at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 17th Karkadakam, 1097, that the Government were not aware of the fact that in *poramboke* cases the *ayacut* and *ozhugu* were not being examined, will the Government be pleased to state whether they have since taken steps to ascertain the truth and, if not, whether Government intend to make enquiries regarding it?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: The answer is in the negative. Government do not consider it necessary or desirable to lay down an obligatory rule that the officer competent to dispose of *poramboke* cases should, on his initiative, examine the *ayacut* and *ozhugu* accounts relating to the land forming the subject-matter of each case. But under Section 10 of Regulation IV of 1091 and under Sections 10 and 11 of the Rules issued thereunder, the officer will issue notices to the parties concerned and receive and consider any evidence that may be adduced by them. It is for the parties to produce the *ayacut* and *ozhugu* accounts before the officer as evidence, if they consider them to be helpful to their case. Circular orders have also been recently issued to the revenue officers to allow parties sufficient time and convenience to adduce evidence in *poramboke* cases.

Infantile Mortality.

67. MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to place on the table the report submitted by the Sanitary Commissioner, Mr. K. Madhavan Pillai, on infantile mortality?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: A copy of the report* referred to is placed on the table.

Maintenance and Extension of the Alattura Channel.

68. MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI: (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the amount sanctioned for the maintenance of the Alattura channel cut from the Kadukkara hill of the Tovala taluk to the Pulikurichi tank, Tazhakudi?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state the amount expended each year from 1090 to 1097 for the maintenance of the Alattura channel?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any idea of extending the Alattura channel as far as Mailadi, Kottaram and Cape Comorin and whether there is any correspondence as regards the matter?

(*d*) Has it been brought to the notice of Government that on many occasions the Tovala channel was breached as a result of allowing water to flow beyond the capacity of the channel?

* *Vide* Appendix II-page 236.

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[Mr. S. Paramesvara Aiyar.]

(*e*) Will the Government be pleased to invite the opinion of the Public Works Department regarding the belief of the people that, in case the Alattura channel is extended as far as Kottaram, it will ensure the safety of the Tovala channel besides affording convenience to agriculturists?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: (*a*) Rs. 700

(*b*) Information has been called for and will be furnished on receipt.

(*c*) The Acting Chief Engineer proposes to investigate the matter with a view to extend the channel as far as may be found to be practicable. There is no correspondence as far as is known at present.

(*d*) A member at the eighteenth session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly represented that though the holding capacity of the channel was only 3 ft., $5\frac{1}{2}$ ft. of water was being let into the channel, resulting in breaches due to high pressure.

(*e*) The feasibility of the suggestion will be investigated.

Free Secondary Education for Pulayas, Parayas, etc.

69. MR. C. RAMANKUNJU: (*a*) Are the Government aware that the members of the Pulaya, Paraya and such other communities are, for want of means, unable to meet the expense of giving secondary education to their children?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to grant free education to their children in all secondary schools in the State and increase the number and amount of stipends to them?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (*a*) Government believe that it is generally the case.

(*b*) Government have recently sanctioned a scheme of fee concessions with a view to afford greater facilities to communities which are backward in point of education. Under this scheme such communities are divided into (1) depressed classes and (2) backward classes. Backward classes are again divided into (1) classes backward in respect of both vernacular and English education and (2) classes backward in point of English education only. Depressed classes will be allowed full fee remission in vernacular and in English schools. Classes not depressed but backward in point of both vernacular and English education will be allowed half-fee concession in both vernacular and English schools, while classes backward in English education alone will be allowed half-fee concession in English schools only. The scheme will come into force with effect from the beginning of the next school year. A notification on the subject will appear in the Gazette shortly.

In the matter of the grant of scholarships, Government propose to appoint a Committee of officials and non-officials to examine the question and see whether, and if so how, the present arrangement requires alteration.

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